



Archaeological Achievement Awards: Celebrating Excellence in Archaeology

The Archaeological Achievement Awards are a showcase for the best in UK and Irish archaeology and a central event in the archaeological calendar. They encompass five awards and an overall outstanding achievement award, celebrating every aspect of archaeology and its contribution to society and environmental sustainability.

The purpose of the Awards is to advance public education in the study and practice of archaeology in all its aspects in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The Awards are committed to recognising significant contributions to the knowledge and importance of research, to professional standards and excellence, the involvement of local communities, the effective dissemination and presentation of archaeological knowledge, and a focus on more sustainable approaches.

Cross-cutting themes

Archaeology when done collaboratively, meaningfully, and with self-reflection has the power to improve the mental and physical well-being of its participants, it can be an avenue for welcoming newcomers to a community and promoting social cohesion, and it can strengthen connections to a shared historic landscape thus creating a common cause for its relevance today.

To reflect this the Awards have a number of cross-cutting themes that aim to help us consider the wider challenges and opportunities archaeology needs to address to demonstrate our wider public value. The judges will be looking to see how nominations reflect these cross-cutting themes.

Nominations are required to demonstrate how they have addressed equity, diversity and inclusion and at least one other cross-cutting theme with the exception of the Early Career Archaeologist award which must demonstrate how they have addressed one cross-cutting theme.

Mandatory cross-cutting theme

You must address this cross-cutting theme.

- **Equity, diversity and inclusion**

Nominations should demonstrate a positive and active contribution to the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion and how this has been built into a project from its inception.

EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all. It aims to eradicate prejudice and discrimination on the basis of an individual or group or individual's protected characteristics.



Optional cross-cutting themes

You must select at least one of these.

- **Health and Wellbeing**

Nominations should demonstrate a contribution to health and well-being in any of the following 5 Ways to Wellbeing as set out by the New Economic Foundation:

- Connect with the people around you.
- Be active
- Take notice, be curious
- Keep learning
- Give, do something nice for someone

See <https://neweconomics.org/uploads/files/five-ways-to-wellbeing-1.pdf>

- **Collaboration — commercial/academic/public**

Nominations should demonstrate collaborative working across at least two of the following — commercial, academic and/or public archaeology. Alternatively, they should be able to evidence collaborative working with partners from other areas such as the natural environment, health and well-being or arts and culture.

- **Placeshaping/placemaking**

Nominations should demonstrate how archaeology has contributed to the process of placeshaping in the work of the project, organisation or individual concerned.

Placeshaping/Placemaking is a process through which places that people want to live in, work in, or explore are created, managed, enhanced and looked after.

- **Innovation**

Nominations should demonstrate how innovative approaches and techniques have influenced the outcomes of the project.



Criteria for each award

Archaeology and sustainability

This award celebrates how archaeology is addressing issues around sustainability. This can include the contribution of archaeology to sustainable development or approaches to making archaeological projects more sustainable. Projects should demonstrate how they are addressing the aspirations of the **United Nations Sustainability Goals** by selecting at least one goal which is closely aligned with the focus of their work or project e.g. quality education (goal 4), infrastructure (goal 9), or climate action (goal 13).

Nominated projects should show how they meet the following criteria:

1. The project addresses at least one of the UN Sustainability Goals
2. The project shows leadership and commitment to developing a sustainable future for archaeology

Examples:

- A project may have implemented sustainable transport strategies to get staff to site or to reduce the carbon footprint of their onsite machinery.
- A project may demonstrate how research helps us understand the implications of climate change such as new research into our peat uplands or coastal erosion.
- A project may demonstrate how archaeology can help contribute to sustainable developments.

Public dissemination or presentation

This broad category can include books and publications, exhibitions, film, social media or presentation. It can relate to a specific site, artefact, place or a wider landscape.

Nominated projects should show how they meet the following criteria:

1. Accessibility to diverse audiences
2. Enhances public understanding
3. Creativity and innovative design and production
4. Multi-format outputs, where appropriate



Engagement and participation

This award focuses on broadening participation in archaeology in all forms and is not limited to on-site delivery or activities. Projects nominated can be on the ground or virtual, and engagement can be through a single event or a package of activities. Emphasis should be on the quality of the participants' experience and the depth of engagement rather than the number of people taking part. We would like to know how the impact of the work has been evaluated and how you have responded to feedback from participants.

Nominated projects should show how they meet the following criteria:

1. Offers high-quality engagement for participants
2. Includes an element of co-production
3. Volunteers are given opportunities to participate in delivery
4. Sustainability and legacy are built into the project

Early career archaeologist

Nominations for this award must be submitted by a third party i.e. not by the individual nominated.

This award will highlight the contribution of an early career archaeologist. This could include contributions to archaeological work or research, dissemination, or a wider contribution to the workplace or a project.

For the purposes of this award, 'early career' is defined as an individual studying or undertaking entry level training, or in the first 8 years of employment as an archaeologist. This can be after a career break or career change and is not restricted by age. Nominations should demonstrate why the individual is considered an early career archaeologist.

Nominations should show how individuals have met the following criteria:

1. Has made a demonstrable contribution either through a body of work over the last 2 years or through a specific piece of work. (This could include contributions to archaeological work or research, dissemination, volunteering, or a wider contribution to the workplace or project.)
2. Has developed their skills and knowledge
3. Has shown leadership, commitment and a passion for archaeology



Learning, Training and Skills

This award celebrates training, learning and skills across academic, public and commercial archaeology. Nominations should demonstrate how the method of delivery moves beyond traditional lectures and presentations and utilises engaging learning mechanisms. Nominations should show how the training/learning has sought and used feedback from participants to improve programme design and take into account user needs.

Nominated projects should show how they meet the following criteria:

1. Clearly evidenced need and target outcomes
2. Demonstrates innovative delivery
3. Incorporates engaging and/or inclusive learning
4. Designed to deliver transferable skills and long-term impact and a culture of lifelong learning or CPD

Outstanding Achievement Award

Winning entries from all 5 award categories will automatically be put forward for the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Delivering value to the highest standards

The Archaeological Achievement Awards are supported by the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists, the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and the Association of Local Government Archaeologists (I-JK). The CBA and these leading bodies in archaeology in the UK and Ireland are committed to promoting high standards of archaeological practice in the service of the public. The judging criteria aim to showcase how archaeology delivers on their core mission to provide value for society and our environment, and to create a positive impact from the work of archaeologists. The challenge of archaeology is that many of the ways we undertake our investigations are destructive. What we touch and how we interpret it can enrich and sustain society, but it can also damage and offend. We collectively believe in the value and sensitivity of what we do. At all times we need to work ethically, with expertise and restraint and to shared standards.

www.archaeologists.net

www.iai.ie

www.algao.org.uk

www.archaeologyuk.org